

search were managed using the *Vectors NTI Suite1 v.5.2'* computer-program (Informax Inc., USA).

Please replace paragraph 0065 with the following:

[0065] Human salivary gland poly A+ RNA was purchased from Clontech.

First strand cDNA was obtained using Expand reverse transcriptase (Roche) and oligo d(T) primer according to the manufacturer's instructions. PCR was performed using 5'CGGCGGGATCCTACACCTGG3' (SEQ ID NO: 13) and 5'AATGGTGACTCCCAGGTCTGA3' (SEQ ID NO: 14) as primers with 10 ng of salivary gland cDNA as template and 10 U of Hot Star Taq polymerase (Quiagen). The thermal cycling parameters were an initial incubation at 94° C for 15 minutes followed by 45 cycles of 94° C (50 sec), 50° C (50 sec), 72° C (2 min). PCR products were directly sequenced in both directions using the BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit (PerkinElmer Life Science).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 12, 17, 18, 26, 28, and 30 with the following:

1. A composition exhibiting vWF protease activity comprising at least one single peptide chain having a molecular weight between 190 kD and 100 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO 1).

12. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said peptide chain further comprises the amino acid sequence AVGPDVFQAHQEDTERYV
LTNLNIGAELLRDP SLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEGAPNITANLTSSLLSVCGWSQTINPEDDTP
GHADLVLYITRFDLPLPDG NRQVRGVTQLGGAC SPTW SCLITEDTGFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO: 15) following the sequence (AAGGILHLELLV SEQ ID NO 1).

17. An isolated polypeptide having a molecular weight between 180 kD and 100 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO: 1).